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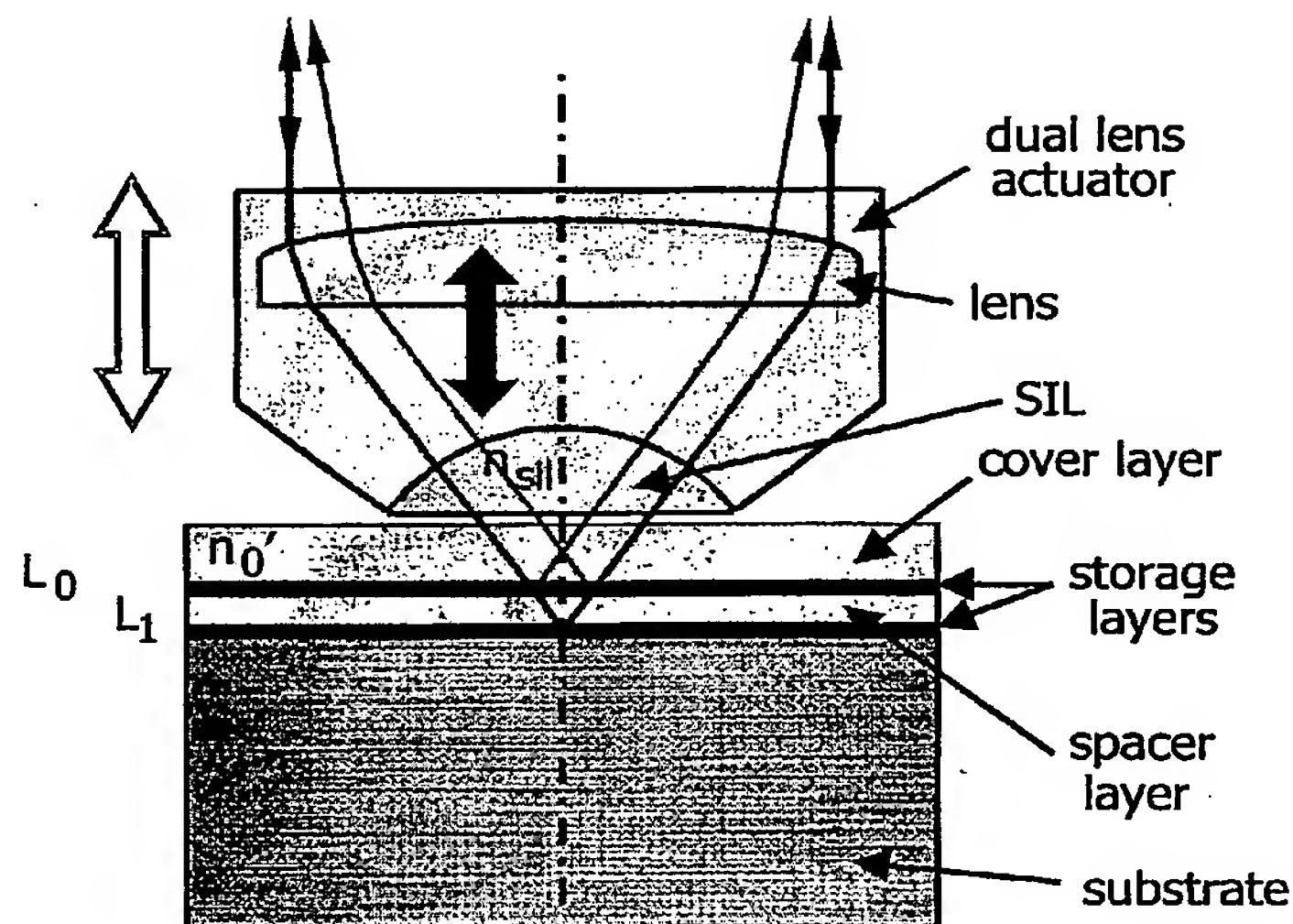
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(54) Title: OPTICAL DATA STORAGE SYSTEM FOR RECORDING AND/OR READING AND OPTICAL DATA STORAGE MEDIUM FOR USE IN SUCH SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Multi layer near-field optical recording using a moderate numerical aperture (NA) is superior to the high-NA (NA=2.0) first-surface single-layer technique. The use of very flat and thin spacer layers limits spherical aberration due to difference in layer depth. The thin spacer layers may have a high refractive index because their thickness allow for a relatively high absorption constant. This makes possible in principle an m-layer system, e.g. $m = 4$, with $NA=1.6$ which may include a flat, protective cover layer. Further a medium for use in such a system is described.

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